

subjects exposed to high altitude.⁴ Our detection of accumulation of fluid in the pericardial space supports the hypothesis that hypoxia in otherwise healthy people is associated with a systemic alteration in vascular permeability.

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IMAGES IN CARDIOLOGY

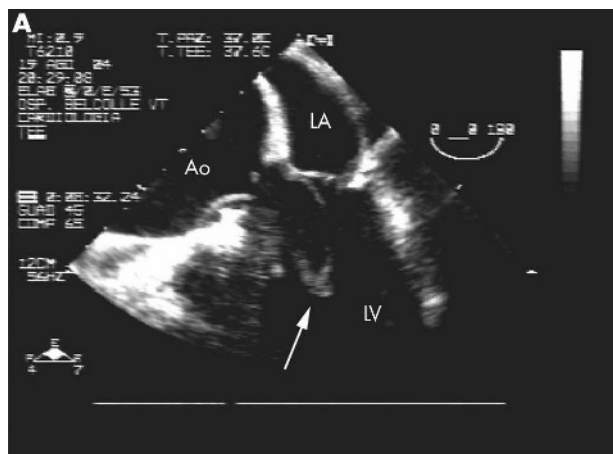
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Circumferential aortic dissection

A 60 year old hypertensive male was admitted to the emergency room with excruciating chest pain, severe hypotension with no palpable right carotid and femoral pulses, and a normal ECG. The most obvious clinical suspicion of aortic dissection was followed by a transoesophageal echocardiogram that showed a type A dissection with diastolic prolapse of the aortic intima into the left ventricle (panel A) and partial left ventricular inflow

obstruction. Panel B depicts the dissection as circumferential, creating a huge false lumen. Unfortunately, the patient died shortly thereafter before entering the operating room.

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Horizontal view of the left atrium and ventricle (LA, LV) with a huge 75 mm dilatation of the ascending aorta (Ao) in the presence of an intimal prolapse into the left ventricle.



Horizontal section of the ascending aorta depicting a circumferential dissection with a knit ball appearance.